

REMARKS

Applicant thanks Examiner for their detailed review of the application. Applicant has amended the specification, amended claim 1, and submitted corrected drawings. Applicant affirms the election, without traverse to prosecute Group 1, claims 1-28.

The communication from the Examiner requested corrected drawings, as they fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4)-(5). Applicant has amended the specification at page 7 paragraph 0020 to include reference to deposition step 305, and at page 8 paragraph 24 to include reference to extraction step 505. Applicant respectfully notes that reference to deposition step 305 is not new matter, as paragraph 0020 discusses examples of deposition steps/methods. Similarly, in paragraph 0024 it is stated that the extraction is shown in Figure 5, “may be done by the same methods aforementioned in reference to extraction step 405.” Applicant also changed the reference numeral 715 in the specification and Figure 7 to reference the composite ILD, as shown in the original Figure 8 correctly and to eliminate the double usage of numeral 710. Furthermore, applicant has removed reference to reference numerals 415 and 610 in the corrected Figures.

Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9, and 11-27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ogihara et al. (U.S. publication 20040091419). Applicant discloses in the amended claim 1, “extracting at least some of the liquid from the zeolite – sol colloid **to form a wet gel** – zeolite composite.” In the specification at pages 7-8 applicant discloses:

Any amount of liquid may be extracted to form a wet gel with different properties. For example, a small amount of liquid may be extracted leaving the wet gel viscous and pliable, so as not to crack during hardening or further processing steps. As another example, some or almost all of the liquid may be extracted to form a wet gel that is closer to a solid phase transition having different mechanical properties. As yet another example, all of the liquid may be extracted from the zeolite – sol colloid to form an aerogel – zeolite composite, which is discussed in more detail in reference to Figure 5

Here, applicant illustrates the delineation between an aerogel and a wet gel. Extracting at least some of the liquid to form a wet gel allows for the dielectric to be "viscous and liable, so as not to crack during hardening or further processing steps." In contrast, Ogihara at col. 7 paragraph 0101 discloses:

The thin film thus prepared may be preferably heated for several minutes at 50 to 150 degrees C in a drying process (generally called a pre-bake in the semiconductor process) in an attempt to remove the solvent. A porous film is finally obtained.

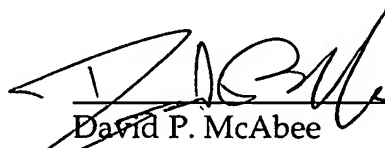
Consequently, it is apparent that Ogihara does not contemplate extraction of some of the liquid, i.e. solvent, to form a wet gel to withstand further processing, but rather removal of the solvent to create a final hardened porous film. In fact, Ogihara only discusses heating or drying to obtain a final porous thin film, not a wet gel.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and its dependent claims 3-28 are now in condition for allowance for the reasons stated above.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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